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Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



PCT

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WA 2825-02WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2003/007555	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 July 2003 (12.07.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 August 2002 (28.08.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G02B 6/38		
Applicant WOBBEN, Aloys		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.
3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the report
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 25 March 2004 (25.03.2004)	Date of completion of this report 25 November 2004 (25.11.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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International application No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- the international application as originally filed
 the description:

pages _____ 1-4 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 2-7 _____, filed with the letter of 24 August 2004 (24.08.2004)

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1-3 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig. _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1 - 7	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Reference is made to the following document:

D4: JP 07037441 (NTT) 7 February 1995 and associated
Patent Abstract of Japan

The document was not cited in the international search report. A copy of the document is attached.

1. The present application does not satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33(1), because the subject matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

D4 discloses (the references in parentheses relate to said document) a connector plug (see fig. 1: "composite plug 40") having a connector plug housing and a first cable bushing (see fig. 1) for a cable having at least a first and second conductor ("electric power-optical combinative cord 10"), having a contact insert ("terminals 41") accommodated, for the first conductor, inside the housing, having means for securing the cable in the region of the cable bushing (Since the connector plug is encapsulated ("by unitedly coating"), it is

obvious that the cable will be secured.), and having a second cable bushing (see fig. 1), wherein the second conductor is routed out of the housing through the second cable bushing (see fig. 1) and wherein the first conductor is an electric conductor and the second conductor is an optical fibre ("optical fiber is extended to the outside of the composite plug 40").

D4 does not disclose that the electric conductor is a copper conductor. Electric conductors are usually made from common conductive metals (such as copper, aluminium or gold), mainly copper.

To a person skilled in the art it would therefore be obvious to use a copper conductor for the electric conductor. The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore obvious (PCT Article 33(3)).

2. The subject matter of dependent claims 2 to 7 likewise fails to meet the inventive step requirement (PCT Article 33(3)).
- 2.1 D4 also clearly discloses the subject matter of claims 2 and 3 (see fig 1: two electric conductors are connected to two "terminals 41"; and see abstract: "by uniformly coating" (Encapsulated connector plugs such as that shown in fig. 1 are usually made of plastic.)). The subject matter of claim 4 is just as clearly disclosed by D4 (see fig. 1).
- 2.2 The subject matter of claim 5 is already incorporated in claim 1, as a result of which the set of claims is not concise (PCT Article 6). For

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the reasons given above (see point 1), the subject matter of claim 5 therefore also fails to meet the inventive step requirement.

- 2.3 It is obvious (see fig. 1) that the second conductor is uninterruptibly routed out of the housing.
- 2.4 A person skilled in the art would use or install the D4 connector plug wherever it appears appropriate to him to do so. Such applications naturally also include control cabinets in wind energy plants, nuclear power stations and the like. A person skilled in the art might be able to modify the connector plug so that the electric conductors and contacts are suitable for the transmission of high voltage or strong current, without thereby being inventive.